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Letter dated 18 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 June 2004, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 30, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the two letters dated 13 May 2004 and 17 May 2004 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/58/797-S/2004/391) and (A/58/804-S/2004/399), respectively, which yet again contain allegations of violations of the airspace of the Republic and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia, and to bring to your kind attention the following:

In response to such false and pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within and above its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to bow to its writs. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating onto itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

It is understandable that, in the current environment regarding Cyprus in the aftermath of the differing results of the separate referenda held in Cyprus on 24 April 2004, the Greek Cypriot side should try to distract with such letters the international community's focus from the real question about Cyprus. The real and relevant question which, at present, is being widely asked and pondered is that, as you had stated in report S/2004/437 of 28 May 2004, if the Greek Cypriots were ready to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriots in a federal structure based on political equality, this needed to be demonstrated, not just by word, but by action (para. 86).

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus